

## COMPOSITE GUIDEWIRE

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The composite guidewire includes an elongated, flexible core formed from a nickel titanium alloy, with a distal tapered portion, a reinforcement tube disposed over the proximal region of the core, a primary coil disposed over the tapered distal region of the core, and a coating of a heat shrinkable material. A  
5 distal tip is secured to the distal end of the core. The proximal reinforcement member has a distal tapered portion, to provide for a transition in stiffness of the guidewire. The heat shrinkable coating is formed from an elongated tube of PTFE, and the distal primary coil is formed from one or more nickel titanium alloy strands or wires, one or more platinum wires, or a combination. The distal tip may be  
10 formed of platinum or a tantalum filled epoxy.